

Rancho Guajome Adobe Today

IN 1970 RANCHO GUAJOME ADOBE WAS DESIGNATED as a National Historic Landmark. Careful preservation and restoration, including replacement of the tile roof, rebuilding and plastering adobe walls, and repair of doors and windows, was completed by the San Diego County Parks and Recreation Department in June, 1996. Original building materials were saved and repaired. The paints used were identified from research that required removal of 150



Photo by Janet Hammes

Adobe brick making is a high point of school tours.

years of painting, one layer at a time. In cases where the original materials were too deteriorated to retain, replicas were made. The entire restoration was in strict conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects. The preservation and restoration

work has won many awards, including the prestigious 1997 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation, the California Preservation Foundation Award, and an Orchid for Historic Preservation from the San Diego Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.



Photo by Janet Hammes

Special events at Rancho Guajome Adobe recreate early California celebrations.

Today, visitors step back in time at Rancho Guajome Adobe. Docents lead tours of the house and grounds, recreating the hospitality as well as the life and times of the Cave Cout's family. Special events recreate the celebrations of life the way it was lived 100 years ago. School tours immerse children in rancho life through tours that complement their curriculum. Rancho Guajome Adobe stands today as a precious jewel of San Diego's past, a legacy preserved.

TOUR INFORMATION

Docent-led tours run Saturday and Sunday at 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. In the event of rain, the adobe will not open for tours.

PARK REGULATIONS

Rancho Guajome Adobe is a State and National Historic Landmark and is open to the public as a museum. The following regulations are in place in order to extend the traditional hospitality of Cave and Ysidora Cout's while protecting the adobe, its furnishings, and the site.

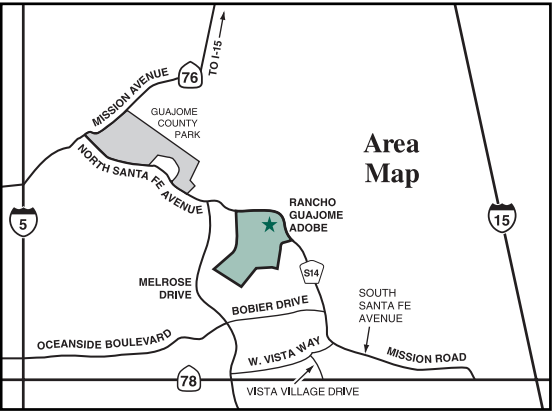
You may explore the house, chapel, and courtyards as part of a docent-led tour. Please do not cross the rope barriers that are in place. Although the furniture looks inviting, it is old and fragile. You may not sit on or touch the furnishings or household objects. The inner courtyard and chapel benches are an exception: you may sit on these benches.

Do not lean against or touch the adobe walls. The whitewash coating is easily damaged and rubs off on clothing. Your shoes may damage the walls. Please watch your step on the uneven walkways.

No food or drink is allowed in the adobe, chapel, or courtyards.

Feel free to take photos in the house. You may use your camera flash.

You may walk around the site and enjoy the Victorian Garden on your own. All plants, animals, natural features, and archaeological resources are fully protected and may not be damaged, injured, or removed.



Cover photo by Jean Rath



Rancho Guajome Adobe

A legacy preserved



Rancho Guajome Adobe County Park

2210 North Santa Fe Avenue
Vista, CA 92083

Information: (760) 724-4082



Visit us online at www.sd-parks.org

Bienvenidos a Rancho Guajome Adobe

WELCOME TO RANCHO GUAJOME ADOBE and the legacy of California rancho days. The centerpiece of what was originally a 2219-acre Mexican land grant, Rancho Guajome Adobe stands today as an authentic representation of two cultures—Hispanic and American—and offers the region an illustration of a colorful era in San Diego's past.



Rancho Guajome Adobe, circa 1905

San Diego Historical Society

Blended Traditions

CAVE JOHNSON COUTS, A HANDSOME YOUNG ARMY lieutenant from Tennessee, arrived on the West Coast in 1849 with a company of U.S. Army Dragoons sent out to reinforce American troops in California. While waiting in Old Town to complete an assignment, he met Juan Bandini, one of San Diego's most prominent citizens, and began to court Bandini's daughter, Ysidora. His marriage to Ysidora in 1851 merged the Californio

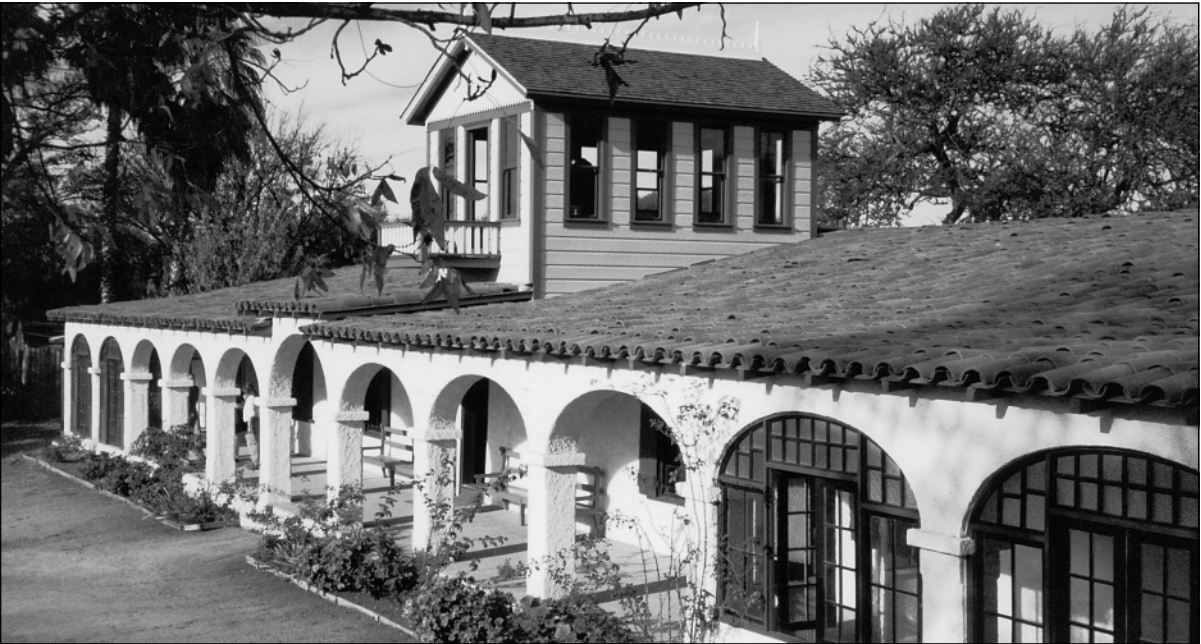


Photo by Hank Prusetti

Beautiful Rancho Guajome Adobe is designated as both a State and National Historic Landmark.

traditions of early San Diego Mexican settlers with the entrepreneurial spirit of American immigrants.

Ysidora received the 2219-acre Rancho Guajome as a wedding present from her brother-in-law, Abel Stearns. Cout's early investments in cattle and livestock brought him huge profits, and in 1852 he began construction of an elegant home at Rancho Guajome. He and Ysidora turned the rancho into the social and cultural center of North County. They held grand fiestas, and the couple became legendary for their gracious hospitality. Ever the entrepreneur, Cout's recognized the natural agricultural and horticultural advantages of the region. As the bottom dropped out of the local cattle market, he planted oranges and other fruit crops and became a leader in the commercial development of the region's agriculture.

Rancho Guajome Adobe

THE RANCHO'S CENTERPIECE WAS ITS ADOBE home. At nearly 7000 square feet and containing 28 rooms, the ranch house took more than three years to construct. It became the elaborate headquarters for Cout's huge ranching operations. Built around an inner courtyard, it held Cout's office, a store, and a schoolroom, as well as the family's living quarters. A second carriage courtyard, a separate chapel, servants' quarters, barns, sheds, stables, corrals, and extensive orchards and vineyards completed the rancho setting.

The nearby abandoned Mission San Luis Rey provided an assortment of local building materials for the adobe. In exchange for a donation to the diocese, Cout's transferred huge



Photos by Jean Rath

Historic furnishings and courtyard plantings bring the rancho to life.

hand-hewn beams, roof and floor tiles, and whatever else he could use to his construction site. The layout of the house followed the traditional Spanish-Mexican one-story hacienda plan with an inner and outer courtyard. American building methods and materials were incorporated into the house as well, including interior fireplaces, wooden floors, glazed windows, and a southern orientation.

This eclectic mixture of architectural features is common to the 1850s and 1860s and chronicles the blended traditions of California's rancho life.



Photo by Jean Rath

Ysidora's restored buggy in the carriage courtyard.